This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

Claim 1 (Currently amended): In a computer system having a host computer coupled to a client computing device via a serial connection, an operating system embodied on a computer-readable medium at the host computer, comprising:

computer-executable instructions to listen at a first baud rate for a predefined message comprised of a text string that includes more than one character sent from the client computing device;

computer-executable instructions to listen at a second baud rate for the predefined message in an event that the predefined message is not received at the first baud rate; and

computer-executable instructions to listen at the second baud rate for the predefined message in an event that error characters not forming part of the predefined message are received at the first baud rate.

Claim 2 (Original): An operating system of claim 1, further comprising computer-executable instructions to listen at the first baud rate for a predetermined period.

Claim 3 (Canceled)

Claim 4 (Original): An operating system of claim 1, further comprising computer-executable instructions to cache the second baud rate in an event that the predefined message is received at the second baud rate.

Claim 5 (Original): An operating system of claim 1, further comprising computer-executable instructions to look up the first and second baud rates in a table.

Claim 6 (Original): A computer comprising:

a processor; and

the operating system of claim 1, embodied on the computer-readable medium, and executed on the processor.

Claim 7 (Currently amended): In a computer system having a host computer coupled to a client computing device via a serial connection, a computer program module embodied on a computer-readable medium for execution at the host computer, comprising:

computer-executable instructions to listen at a first baud rate at which a predefined message comprised of a text string that includes more than one character might be sent from the client computing device over the serial connection; and

computer-executable instructions to switch to listening at a second baud rate if one of the following events occurs: (1) characters not included in the predefined message are received, or (2) a predetermined timeout period expires without successful receipt of the predefined message.

Claim 8 (Original): A computer program module of claim 7, further comprising computer-executable instructions to cache one of the first and second baud rates at which the predefined message is successfully received.

Claim 9 (Original): An operating system incorporating the computer program module of claim 7.

Claim 10 (Currently amended): A computer-implemented method, comprising:

listening at a first of multiple baud rates for a predefined message comprised of a text string that includes more than one character to be sent by a client computing device over a serial connection to a host computer;

in an event that characters not included as part of the predefined message are received or the predefined message is not detected within a predetermined time period, listening at a second of the baud rates for the predefined message.

Claim 11 (Previously presented): A computer-implemented method of claim 10, wherein the listening steps are repeated until a baud rate is found that allows receipt of the predefined message.

Claim 12 (Previously presented): A computer-implemented method of claim 11, further comprising storing the baud rate that enables receipt of the predefined message.

Claim 13 (Original): A computer-implemented method of claim 10, further comprising storing the multiple baud rates in a table.

Claim 14 (Currently amended): A computer-implemented method, comprising:

listening to a serial connection at a baud rate for a predefined message comprised of a text string that includes more than one character from a client computing device; and

automatically adjusting the baud rate in an event that error characters in the predefined message are detected.

Claim 15 (Original): A computer-implemented method of claim 14, wherein the adjusting comprises cycling through a set of predetermined baud rates.

Claim 16 (Previously presented): A computer-implemented method of claim 14, further comprising caching the baud rate at which the predefined message is detected.

Claim 17 (Currently amended): In a computer system having a host computer coupled to a client computing device via a serial connection and employing a Unimodem null serial protocol to establish a connection between the host computer and the client computing device, a computer-implemented method, comprising:

(a) storing multiple baud rates at which a predefined message comprised of a text string that includes more than one character may be sent from the client computing device over the serial connection;

(b) selecting one of the baud rates;

(c) listening at the selected baud rate for the predefined message;

(d) in an event that the error characters in the predefined message are received, selecting another of the baud rates; and

(e) repeating steps (c) and (d) until a baud rate is found that enables receipt of the predefined message.